



SACO

SLAVIC AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION



Summer 2015
Vol. #3



To inform and educate Slavic
Americans, as well as others, of
the Slavic Culture
and History

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SAVE THE DATE!



JULY PICNIC

SUNDAY,
JULY 12, 2015
at the
CORRALITOS
COMMUNITY
CENTER
PADRES HALL
DETAILS IN THIS
ISSUE
Volunteers Needed!
Please call
Maryann
Bulich Schnitter
(408) 828-5206

THE KALIFORNSKI SUMMERTIME FUN!

From Our President: *Christina Justus*



Hello SACO Members,

As many of you may know, our lamb dinner was very successful. The venue was beautifully decorated and the food was delicious. Thank you to everyone who came and had a good time. I would also like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who helped to put on the event. Thanks all of you who have made donations to the Scholarship Fund and a warm welcome to our new members! There were some guests who read about the dinner in the paper and attended.

A friend of mine recently asked me why I was involved in SACO and I thought I should share my reason with you. It's my way of giving back to the community I live in. By making sure that SACO continues to be here and grow, I am not only giving back to our group but I am giving back to future members as well.

I have a few goals for SACO. One is to bring in new members, and that is happening. Another is to increase the number of scholarships we can award in the future. More memberships will help with that. I would like to keep the costs of our three main events (Lamb Dinner, July Picnic and the Christmas Dinner) affordable to anyone on a fixed income. As the economy changes, this can be a challenge, but we are trying.

In the future, I would like to have a special fundraising event dinner which would be something a little different than our main events. We will be working on that idea and keeping you posted as to what is decided. Any ideas?

Thank you again for your continued support of all that we do and I am looking forward to seeing you at the July Picnic!

Christina

For our members and friends who may be traveling to
Croatia this summer:

Blossoms Into Gold

The Croatians in the Pajaro Valley

will be published in the Croatian language by
Matica Hrvatska Dubrovnik this summer.
Donna Mekis and Kathryn Mekis Miller
will be presenting their book on Monday, August 10th at 9:00 PM
Centre for Advanced Academic Studies, Don Frana Bulica 4,
Dubrovnik, Croatia

TREASURER'S REPORT

Prepared by: Susan Radin Gallagher



Current Balance:

\$8,169.94

Scholarship Account Balance:

\$1,375.00

(a separate account was set-up for
scholarships at Comerica Bank)

Lamb Dinner:

Ticket Sales: \$4,975.00
Drink Sales: 996.00
Drawing: 571.00
Plants Sold: 40.00
Extras Sold: 177.00
Total Income: \$6,759.00

Expenses: \$4,050.00

Event Profit: \$2,709.00

In Memory Of:

Mrs. Hedy Claus
Louise Bilicich
Bob Moresco
Jo Puhera
Nancy Copriviza
Caroline Bahr
Ted Nizenkoff

SACO Membership Update:

152 Families and Individuals

New and Returning Members

Bill Alaga, Jr.
Elivina Bevilacqua
Antone Bulich, III
Patrick Carey
Robert & Kathy Cememsak
Skip & Diana Gribble
Linda Pavlovich
Janice Rains
Stephanie Schnitter
Manny & Megan Solano

Peter Alaga, III
Peter & Kristy Bobeda
Mary C. Bulich
Nancy Cavanaugh
Wayne & Debbie Gluhan
John & Stacey Lake
John & Nada Pazin
Nancy Resetar
Nikole Simmons
Steve & Kerry Stringari

We Need You!

Looking for two members to volunteer to
shadow both Judy Hager and
Maryann Bulich Schnitter in
preparation for the July Picnic on
July 12, 2015 with the intention of
co-chairing the event in July 2016.

If interested, please contact Maryann at
#(408)828-5206.

Thank you!

This and That:

- **Membership Drive:** We would love to have your family members, friends and businesses join us in supporting all that we do. Please contact Susan Radin Gallagher at suzgal-la@aol.com or more information.
- Congratulations to **Tyler Sambrailo** for his selection in the 2nd round of the recent NFL Draft. He was selected 59th overall by the Denver Broncos in the 80th edition of the Draft. He is the son of Mark and Karen Sambrailo, members of SACO. GO TYLER!
- We are looking for sponsors for our Kalifornski. If you like to advertise your business, please contact GeriAnne at (831)724-1967 or romandgerianne@aol.com. A business card size ad will cost \$25.00 per issue. Additional space with cost available.

Annual Lamb Dinner

held on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at the Moreland Notre Dame School's Gymnasium
 Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make this year's Rack of Lamb Dinner such a success. A special thank you goes to the DOBLER FAMILY for the use of their barbecue pit and to PETER KOVACICH for his help with the meal preparation and guidance with the event!

Co-Chairs: Judy Hager & Maryann Bulich Schnitter

Food Service:

Peter Kovacich, Lead
 Stephanie Bulich, Lead
 John Kusanovich
 Antone "Tony" Bulich, Jr.
 Steve Millich
 Chris Hager
 Annamarie Dugger
 Linda Pavlovich
 Ursula Puglizevich
 Stephanie Schnitter
 Antone "Tony" Scurich

Beverage Service:

John Vodanovich, Lead
 John Alaga
 Eli Puglizevich
 Antonio Violich
 Antone "Tony" Bulich, III
 Ivo Basor
 Tyler "Ty" Sambrailo
 Mary Bulich
 Charlie Gebhardt
 Luci Basor

and, thank you to all of our members and guests who were kind enough to bring raffle prizes and/or desserts to share!



Photos Courtesy of:
 Antonio Violich, and Mary Gospodnetich



Thank you to everyone for stopping by. We hope you had a great meal, special time with friends and family and cherished memories of another SACO event. See you in July!



Travels with Luci

This is part two of a two part series written by Luci Basor, a Watsonville native, local educator and world traveler. Luci and her family are founding members of SACO and has written of her recent travels to her families homeland.



The best experience I had during the 7 months that I lived in Croatia, (other than traveling!!) was being able to be a part of and see how the holidays are celebrated in Konavle. The focus of the holidays is not about gifts and shopping. Holidays in Konavle are all about being with family, eating, drinking and having a good time. Several holidays in December that are considered very important (other than Christmas and New Years) are Sveti Nikola (St. Nick), Sveta Luce (St. Lucy) and Badnji Dan (Christmas Eve). The night before Sveti Nikola children put boots or stockings in front of the door and St. Nick puts goodies inside. On Sveta Luce you plant pšenica (wheat, see picture below right) and depending on how well your wheat grows, will predict how your year will be.



Badnji dan is celebrated from the morning up until midnight, where people go to midnight mass for Christmas. We went to Dubrovnik in the morning and walked along Stradun (left picture).

The streets of Dubrovnik were packed with people, dressed formally; eating bakalar and priganice/prikle and enjoying groups caroling throughout the city. A lot of people decorate their Christmas tree on Christmas Eve and spend most of the day cooking and cleaning in preparation for Christmas. In the afternoon, a small group of us from Gruda took part in kolenda (caroling). We dressed up in Konavoska roba (clothes bottom and top right) and walked through the village, visiting a few houses singing Christmas

carols and of course treating ourselves to goodies at each house. At night, before midnight mass some families still uphold the tradition of bringing the Yule log in the house. I've never seen this done before (badnjak, picture above right), but this year I got to see the whole process at my uncle's house. Someone knocks on the door and brings in the log wrapped in bršljan (ivy), and blesses it with holy water. Then the family goes to each room of the house, carrying the Yule log, tamjan (incense), an olive branch and holy water to bless every room. At midnight, people go to mass and come back home to eat kobasice, svinjska glava (head of a pig) and kaštradina (dried meat). On Christmas, families have lunch together which normally consists of roasted pork. Families, neighbors and friends visit each other's homes to wish a merry Christmas and enjoy the company of one another.





In Konavle, Agroturizam has a weeklong program called "Mirisi Božića" (The Scents of Christmas), which consists of several different events, something occurring every day. Since my uncle has a family wine/liqueur business, he is very involved in some of the events, so I decided to join in on all the fun as well. One event that lasts two days is called "Dani Otvorenih Vrata" (Open house), where people who have small tasting rooms/houses or restaurants host guests. My cousin Jelena and I were the hostesses for our uncles wine cellar. We used Konavoska clothes and modernized it a bit for the event. For two days, people were coming and leaving, trying different types of liqueurs, wines and of course eating pršut and sir (cheese) NON-STOP. The final event of this program is Festival Zelena Menestra (picture right), a gathering of hundreds of people who form teams and compete against one another to see who can make the best kupus and smoked



My dream has always been to be on Stradun for New Year's Eve (see pictures below left and right) and I finally was able to live it. Stradun in Dubrovnik was packed with people waiting for the countdown, followed by fireworks and a concert. For New Year's Day, the family again gets together and has roasted pork for lunch. I loved being able to be around for all of these festivities. It was nice to see that holidays mean more than buying gifts for one another. Holidays are about being surrounded with people you love, upholding traditions, and making sure everyone has enough to eat and drink.



Staying in Croatia for more than half a year was the best decision I've ever made. While living here I met so many people and I learned so much more about the culture, the school system, life and also about myself. I loved every day that I spent in Konavle and all the places I visited. I am incredibly thankful for being able to have had this opportunity and for all the wonderful experiences I had.

Živjeli!!





You and your friends
are invited to the annual
Slavic American Cultural Organization's
SUMMER BARBECUE

On Sunday, July 12, 2015

at the Corralitos Padres Hall

35 Browns Valley Road, Corralitos, CA

12:00 noon to 4:00 pm

Social Hour followed by a delicious barbecue
served by our members. Our scholarship recipients
will be announced followed by our exciting raffle!

BBQ includes: steak, chicken, vegetarian selection,
potatoes, green salad, fruit, salad, rolls and
desserts made by our members.

COST: \$20.00 per adult and

\$10.00 for children under 12 years of age

INVITATION AND RESERVATION INFORMATION

TO BE MAILED OUT SOON

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

SACO Lapel Pins

will be available for purchase at the
upcoming Annual Barbecue
\$6.00 each or two for \$10.00
Proudly wear your support
for the organization!



Notice to SACO Membership: Amendments to the Corporation's Existing By-Laws

At the Annual General Membership Meeting held on January 23, 2015, at the Watsonville Woman's Club, suggested amendments to the existing By-Laws were presented, by members in good standing, to the Board of Directors for their consideration for change. Those proposed amendments were brought forth and discussed at two board meetings held on April 21st and then again on May 19th. The board feels that they are close to agreeing on a final version of By-Laws that will govern the corporation for many years to come. As per Article XI of the current By-Laws titled "Amendment to By-Laws: new By-Laws may be amended by two thirds vote of a majority of the membership at any regular meeting". If you feel you have additional recommendations for changes, please notify one of our board members prior to June 12th so they could be taken into consideration before the next board meeting.

Otherwise, hereby notice is given that such vote will take place at the next regular board meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at 7:00 PM in Room #53 at Watsonville High School.

2015 SACO High School Scholarship News

Our Scholarship Co-Chairs, Antonio Violich and John Basor have met, reviewed applications and have selected two very deserving students to each receive a \$600.00 scholarship from SACO this year. Each student will be announced and awarded their scholarship at our upcoming Summer Barbecue. We are looking forward to having the students and their families as our guests.

It's never too early to work on the criteria and application process for next year so, if you would like to become a member of the SACO Scholarship Committee and help to plan for next year, please contact our Board President, Christina Justus at (831) 763-3928 or email her at christinajustus@outlook.com with your information.

Job well done graduates!



All contributions are tax deductible with the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code Federal Tax I.D.#94-2885274

SLAVIC AMERICAN CULTRAL ORGANIZATION

P.O. BOX 226
WATSONVILLE, CA 95077
A Non-Profit, Non-Religious &
Non-Political Organization
Established in 1980

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

members and the public are welcome!

The SACO Board of Directors currently meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month at Watsonville High School, Room #53 from 7:00-9:00 PM but, we are looking for a location that can accommodate us on a Sunday afternoon once a month. Please contact Christina Justus if you know of such a location. Thank you.

SACO Board of Directors 2014-2016

President: Christina Justus
christinajustus@outlook.com; (831)763-3928

Vice-President: Valerie Justus-Rusconi
valerie_kalyani@yahoo.com

Secretary: Linda Wathen Espejo
jlmirror@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Susan Radin Gallagher
suzgalla@aol.com

Publicity Director: Nikole Simmons
nikolesimmons@gmail.com

Kalifornski Editors:

GeriAnne Solano Simmons

tomandgerianne@aol.com; (831)724-1967

Patricia Gospodnetich Solano
scarletpen@aol.com



Patricia Gospodnetich Solano

was recently recognized as this years SACO honoree at the Annual YWCA International Women's Day Event held on March 7, 2015 in Watsonville, CA.

Patricia (on the right) is pictured with:
Christina Justus (left) SACO Board President
and
Brittany Nielsen (center), Morning Anchor with
KSBW TV, Guest Speaker for the event and
Watsonville native



CONGRATULATIONS 2015 Watsonville High School Alumni Hall of Fame Honorees Class of 1971 and SACO Members



Eric and Marc grew up with their parents Richard and Patricia and brother Kris on the family farm in Pajaro. Both grandfathers immigrated to the United States from Italy and Croatia and were life-long farmers in the Pajaro and Salinas Valley's for three generations.

Eric is married to wife Teresa and has been in private practice in Ophthalmology in Monterey County since 1985 where he specializes in the diseases of the retina and vitreous with laser and microsurgery.

Marc is married to his wife Tina and currently practices law advising public and private entities with significant water rights and water quality issues, agri-business companies, public utilities and retail water agencies.

Thank you both for your continued support of SACO!



Marc J. Del Piero



Dr. Eric J. Del Piero